

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301446Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4551

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USNMR SHAPE BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: AVLONA: TURKISH/UNFICYP CONFRONTATION

REF: A. NICOSIA 2910; B. USDAO NICOSIA 201230Z SEP 76

1. AS OF SEPT. 27 THE SITUATION AT AVLONA WAS QUIET.
"TURK CYPRIOT FARMERS" ARE NOT ENTERING DISPUTED FARMING
AREA. UNFICYP, BY NOT PROVIDING ESCORTS, IS EFFECTIVELY
PREVENTING GREEK CYPRIOT FARMERS FROM ENTERING THE AREA
NORTH OF THE 90 NORTHING LINE (REF A). ACCORDING TO UNFICYP
SOURCES, SITUATION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN QUIET AT LEAST UNTIL
RETURN OF PEREZ DE CUELLAR TO NICOSIA. HE IS EXPECTED TO
BE CARRYING INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNSYG ON NEXT STEP IN SOLUTION
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OF AVLONA PROBLEM.

2. ON SEPT. 25 GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR PAPADOPOLOS SAID IN HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT LARNACA AIRPORT THAT HE HAD PROTESTED TO THE UN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN AVLONA AND THAT "BOTH THE GREE CYPRIOT SIDE AND THE UN OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT BY THE AVLONA INCIDENTS THE TURKS ARE SEEKING TO CREATE A PRECEDENT JUSTIFYING THEIR FURTHER INFILTRATION INTO THE SO-CALLED NEUTRAL ZONE." IN AN APPARENT RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT, A "TFSC" SPOKESMAN "REJECTED THE GREEK CYPRIOT ALLEGATION THAT 95 PERCENT OF THE PROPERTY IN THE BUFFER ZONE IN THE AVLONA AREA BELONGS TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS." THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THAT "OWNERSHIP RIGHTS.... ARE ONE OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A PEACE CONFERENCE."

3. COMMENT: THE SITUATION IN AVLONA HAS REMAINED QUIET FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS. THE GREEK AND TURK CYPRIOT SPOKESMEN ARE EXCHANGING VERBAL ARGUMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AREA IN DISPUTE -- FROM THE 90 NORTHNG LINE TO THE TURKISH FDL -- WILL NOT BE WORKED BY FARMERS FROM EITHER SIDE FOR SOME TIME WHILE UNFICYP/TURK CYPRIOT DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE. AVLONA IS NO LONGER CAUSING PROBLEMS ON A DAILY BASIS BUT WE EXPECT THAT THE ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN IRRITANT IN UNFICYP'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH GREEK AND TURK CYPRIOTS. MEANWHILE THE TURKISH RETALIATORY ACTIONS AGAINST UNFICYP AS DESCRIBED REF B CONTINUE. MAIN EFFECT IS THAT UNFICYP PERSONNEL ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO MOVE FREELY IN THE NORTHER PART OF CYPRUS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES. END COMMENT. CRAWFORD

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